

CALFRESH (CF) PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR POLICY/REGULATION INTERPRETATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete items 1 - 10 on the form. Use a separate form for each policy interpretation request. If additional space is needed, please use the second page. Be sure to identify the additional discussion with the appropriate number and heading. Retain a copy of the CF 24 for your records.

- Questions from counties, including county Quality Control, must be submitted by the county CalFresh Coordinator and may be submitted directly to the CalFresh Policy analyst assigned responsibility for the county, with a copy directed to the appropriate CalFresh Policy unit manager.
- Questions from Administrative Law Judges may be submitted directly to the CalFresh Policy analyst assigned responsibility to the county where the hearing took place, with a copy of the form directed to the appropriate CalFresh Bureau unit manager.

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| 1. RESPONSE NEEDED DUE TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy/Regulation Interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> QC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | 5. DATE OF REQUEST: 8-6-12 | NEED RESPONSE BY: 8-13-12 |
| 2. REQUESTOR NAME: | 6. COUNTY/ORGANIZATION: Ventura County | |
| 3. PHONE NO.: | 7. SUBJECT: Transportation Costs as Medical Expense | |
| 4. REGULATION CITE(S): 63-502.331(h) | 8. REFERENCES: <i>(Include ACL/ACIN, court cases, etc. in references)</i> NOTE: All requests must have a regulation cite(s) and/or a reference(s). MPP 63-300.5(e)(7), MPP 63-502.331(h); State Policy Interpretation (PI) #2831, SNAP Memo Index No. 3-91-09 | |

9. QUESTION: (INCLUDE SCENARIO IF NEEDED FOR CLARITY):

We are determining the medical expenses for a case.

Per MPP 63-502.331 (h) we have determined that actual costs of a private auto are reasonable and necessary for this client due to his particular medical circumstance, as he cannot use public transportation with his condition.

How are actual costs for transportation by private auto assessed? What do we allow?

This client is requesting cost of insurance, gasoline, smog fee's, repairs and new tires. Do we allow all or part of these costs and potentially more or is there a mileage calculation we could allow instead or some other method?

10. REQUESTOR'S PROPOSED ANSWER:

Use only mileage as a reimbursement. The IRS 2012 standard mileage rate for miles driven for medical purposes is 23 cents per mile. The IRS 2012 standard rate for business miles is 55.5 cents per mile. One of these rates could be used. Allow no other vehicle repair or maintenance costs.

11. STATE POLICY RESPONSE (CFPB USE ONLY):

Question: The question appears to be can the program pay for private auto use because an individual cannot use public transportation due to the individual's medical circumstance.

Answer: No, a medical expense requiring a medical deduction under MPP 63-502.331(h) is for an elderly or disabled household member [defined in MPP 63-102(e)] who incurs transportation costs as a result of medical service/treatment. If the only means available to the individual is their privately owned vehicle or if the county determines the use of the private auto is reasonable and necessary given the medical circumstances of the individual, then the cost of the mileage associated with the service/treatment (to and from) may be used as a deduction and calculated at a standard mileage reimbursement rate designed to cover the operating costs of the vehicle, such as the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) rate. Federal guidance includes some examples of medical treatment or services, such as: trips to a doctor, dentist, or (cont.)

FOR CDSS USE

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| DATE RECEIVED: 8/7/12 | DATE RESPONDED TO COUNTY/ALJ: |
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CALFRESH (CF) PROGRAM **REQUEST FOR POLICY/REGULATION INTERPRETATION (Continued)**

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11. (cont.) to fill prescriptions for medicine, dentures, a hearing aid, eyeglasses, sickroom equipment, etc. The transportation costs must be fully verified according to MPP 63-300.5(e)(7) and are limited to a standard such as the IRS mileage or one developed by the county which is county-wide that includes variations for the respective county. The IRS rate can provide the basis for making exceptions to such rates based upon a county's special circumstances per the SNAP Memo Index No.: 3-91-09.